



WORLD
FOOD
FORUM

GLOBAL
YOUTH
ACTION

WORLD FOOD FORUM YOUTH POLICY BOARD



TERMS OF REFERENCE

LAST UPDATED: DECEMBER 2024

1. BACKGROUND

The engagement and empowerment of youth in agrifood systems transformation are pivotal to creating a more sustainable, resilient and equitable future for all, accelerating the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular, SDG2 (Zero Hunger). By investing in and empowering young leaders, fostering innovation and ensuring inclusive participation, youth can spearhead action towards tangible impact.

The [World Food Forum](#) (WFF) was launched in 2021 by the Youth Committee of the [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations](#) (FAO), as an independent network of partners. Hosted within FAO, it serves as the premier global platform to actively shape agrifood systems for a better food future, accelerating the achievement of the SDGs. Through youth action, science and innovation, and investment, the WFF forges new paths of action and multi-sector partnerships for agrifood impact at the local, regional and global levels to achieve a more sustainable, resilient, inclusive and hunger-free food future for all.

Within this framework, the WFF Global Youth Action initiative was established to harness the passion and power of youth, and incite positive action for agrifood systems through youth empowerment. It acts as a catalytic movement and driver of youth engagement in food governance, and serves as a knowledge center and innovation lab, fostering and inspiring youth-led solutions. It thus actively contributes to the implementation of the UN Youth 2030 Strategy and enhances youth engagement in the follow-up to the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit.

The WFF Global Youth Action initiative is implemented through a set of thematic programmes that leverage intergenerational and cross-sectoral collaboration, innovation and investment: Youth Assembly, Youth Innovation Lab, Youth Education, Local Youth Action and Youth Culture.



All year-long activities of the WFF Global Youth Action initiative culminate in an annual flagship event, which harnesses intergenerational collaboration, as well as partnerships and action across policy, science, innovation, education, culture and investment.

The Youth Assembly is a year-round, open and inclusive platform led by the WFF [Youth Policy Board](#) (YPB). It brings together young individuals, youth entities, organizations and constituencies to co-create key policy priorities, discuss specific topics related to agrifood systems and develop joint recommendations or solutions. Through various sessions – from regional policy dialogues to global thematic consultations – the Assembly fosters collective action on issues related to agrifood systems, sustainability and the broader objectives of the SDGs.

The Youth Assembly builds a unique bridge between youth-driven insights and global policy frameworks. Through intergenerational dialogues, the Assembly ensures that young voices are heard and that youth perspectives are incorporated into policy recommendations produced by the YPB. This is especially crucial as the world faces growing challenges such as climate change, food insecurity and social inequalities, all of which disproportionately affect younger generations.

The YPB was officially established in April 2022 to promote youth leadership in the governance of the Youth Assembly. The YPB is a global group of young representatives who actively advise and help organize the work of the Youth Assembly. Their role includes identifying key policy priorities at global and regional levels, which guide the activities of various youth constituencies within the WFF and support youth-led actions at national and local levels.

2. CORE VALUES

All members of the YPB are expected to embody the WFF's core values of integrity, responsibility and collaboration, as well as adhere to the highest ethical standards. Members should respect diversity and promote equity and inclusion in all activities. The WFF strongly encourages the participation of women, Indigenous Peoples and underrepresented minorities in the YPB to ensure diverse perspectives in policy development and advocacy.

3. STRUCTURE AND DUTIES

The YPB operates for a one-year term. During the term, YPB members have the following duties:

- Lead the implementation of the [Global Youth Action Plan](#) (GYAP) within each region.
- Lead regional consultations, provide strategic advice, and ensure diverse regional youth voices and perspectives are represented in policy discussions.
- Draft the Regional Compendium.
- Draft a report summarizing the progress made on the GYAP.
- Lead consultations on different topics within agrifood systems governance, providing strategic advice and ensuring diverse youth voices and perspectives are represented in policy discussion.
- Draft recommendations, outcome documents, calls to action and other documents addressing various topics related to agrifood systems governance.
- Represent the WFF Youth Assembly and YPB at meetings, events, interviews, podcasts and other forms of engagement and external outreach as they arise.
- Occasionally, the YPB may have the opportunity to engage with the different WFF programmes (Education, Innovation Lab, Culture and Local Action) to advise on their nexus with policy processes.

To facilitate communication and collaboration, the YPB is led by three co-chairs.

4. SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE 2025–2026 TERM

YPB members contribute to three primary areas:

- 1. Regional consultations:** Across all six FAO regions, YPB members will drive the implementation of the GYAP by advancing the two actionable items in their respective region throughout 2025 and 2026. The YPB members will also gather youth perspectives on the four regional priorities, as aligned with [FAO's four betters](#) and build the 2026 Regional Compendium. Within the scope of the GYAP and the drafting of the Regional Compendium, YPB members will hold consultations and design surveys to inform statements, outcome documents and advocacy strategies in close collaboration with FAO Regional Offices.
- 2. Thematic consultations:** YPB members will focus on key agrifood systems topics, with each member leading research and consultations on their area of expertise, identifying gaps in youth involvement, and collecting youth-led case studies. They will develop surveys and facilitate youth consultations to refine key issues. The findings will be used to draft statements, outcomes or calls to action, and an advocacy strategy will be developed to promote these outcomes in relevant forums, focusing on youth empowerment in agrifood systems.
- 3. Engagement in intergovernmental processes:** For each of the key agrifood systems topics addressed during the thematic consultations, outcome documents will be presented at the relevant intergovernmental processes. The goal of such engagements is to ensure that youth perspectives are shared with relevant stakeholders and go on to impact agrifood systems decision-making.

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be considered for the YPB, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applicants must have graduated from high school and either have completed or be enrolled in a bachelor's degree programme at the time of application.
- Applicants must be at least 18 years old by 30 April 2025 and 35 years of age or younger as of 30 April 2026.
- Applicants must be nationals of an FAO Member State.
- Applicants must demonstrate proficiency in spoken and written English at a C1 level (fluency in other official UN languages is an advantage).
- Applicants must be able to participate in weekly YPB meetings.
- Applicants must have experience or demonstrated interest in agrifood systems, policy advocacy and youth empowerment.
- Applicants must dedicate approximately 25 hours per month to the role.
- Applicants must demonstrate the ability to adapt to an international, multicultural environment and possess strong intercultural communication skills.
- Applicants and their immediate family members (spouses, parents, children, siblings or their respective spouses) cannot be FAO employees.
- FAO cannot employ applicants.
- Applicants cannot be current or former WFF Young Scientists Group members.
- YPB members in their second term cannot apply for a third term.
- Applicants must demonstrate commitment to fostering diversity, equity and inclusion in all activities.
- Special consideration is given to applicants who:
 - possess experience within youth constituencies or organizations;
 - come from underrepresented and marginalized groups, including farmers, Indigenous Peoples and women; and
 - showcase an understanding of international governance frameworks related to agrifood systems.

6. KEY ATTRIBUTES FOR YPB MEMBERS

YPB members will possess the following attributes:

- demonstrated passion for transforming agrifood systems and engaging youth in policy processes;
- leadership and strategic thinking skills, with the ability to collaborate across diverse teams;
- knowledge of policy development, advocacy and global governance structures; and
- a proactive, solution-oriented mindset and excellent communication skills.

7. SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process consists of four rounds:

- **Round 1:** The WFF Secretariat conducts an initial review of candidates, scoring them based on eligibility and experience.
- **Round 2:** A selection committee, composed of representatives from youth organizations, further evaluates the candidates and creates a shortlist. Shortlisted candidates will be notified and asked to submit their CV, a letter of recommendation, and a two-minute video explaining how they would contribute to the work of the YPB and the Youth Assembly.
- **Round 3:** The outgoing YPB cohort selects a final shortlist, assessing candidates based on key criteria such as knowledge of agrifood systems, leadership skills and policy expertise.
- **Round 4:** Top candidates are invited for interviews with the Youth Assembly Secretariat team and former YPB members. Final selections are made based on interview performance and overall ranking.

8. COMMITMENT

YPB members serve a one-year term with the possibility of reapplying for a second term. Members are expected to dedicate approximately 25 hours per month to YPB activities, including attending meetings, contributing to policy documents, implementing the GYAP and participating in external engagements.

Current YPB members are listed on the WFF Website here: **[YOUTH POLICY BOARD](#)**